

## ***From the Deputy Maritime Administrator—***



I recently had the honor to address the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) as the keynote speaker at their 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference in Bay City, Michigan.

I was privileged to acknowledge the long and close association between MARAD and ASTA and to recognize the importance of our combined mission—a mission to bring up the next generation of maritime leaders.

ASTA was founded in 1973, by Barclay Warburton, III, of Newport, Rhode Island. He was so inspired by the enthusiasm and spirit he saw in an international gathering of tall ships and young people, he set out to create a similar organization in order to bring the same kind of spirit to the United States.

ASTA is dedicated to enriching youth education through character building and leadership development experiences aboard tall ships and promoting awareness of the need for maritime heritage preservation programs. It is this kind of hands-on learning that can open minds and souls to the call of the sea and lead young people to opportunities for life-long careers in the maritime industry.

MARAD supports maritime training and education through the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, six state maritime academies, and several outreach and continuing education programs. Recently, we implemented an awareness campaign to introduce youth to career and employment opportunities in the maritime industry. MARAD's Ship Operations Cooperative Program and its Mariner Recruitment Working Group have been instrumental in producing print and electronic promotional material while also visiting schools, career fairs, and conferences to promote careers at sea.

Clearly, it is crucial that we promote sail training to the North American public and that we support and develop education opportunities under sail.

After all, we are a maritime nation—a nation whose history is directly tied to magnificent tall ships.

MARAD shares ASTA's commitment and dedication to the maritime industry. And I am pledging our full and continued support to them as we work together in the adventurous spirit of maritime enterprise that has helped to build this mighty nation.

**John Jamian**

## ***MARAD Update***

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